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MINUTES

OF THE

GRAY'S CREEK COLORED ASSOCIATION,

SECOND SESSION.

HELD WITH THE

NEW HOPE CHURCH.

BLADEN COUNTY, N. C.

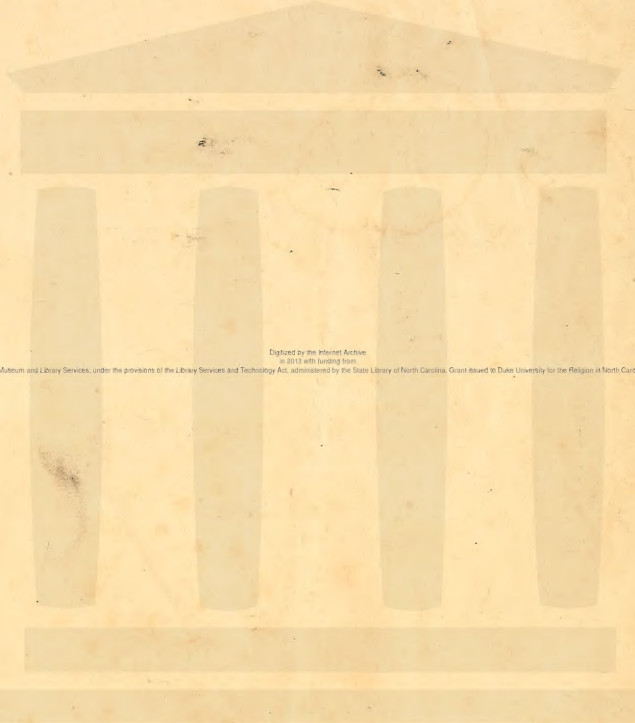
November 4th and 5th.

1870.

FAYETTEVILLE:

N. C. PRESBYTERIAN OFFICE.

1870.



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PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY, Nov. 4th, 1870.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. Samuel Boone, from Rev. 3d chap., 20th and 21st verses.

The Association was then called to order by the Moderator, Bro. A. Edwards. Hymn: "Come, Holy Spirit."

Prayer by Bro. James Tolar.

The list of Churches was then called. A majority being present, the Association was then declared ready for business.

The Letters were called for and read and the names of the Delegates enrolled.

The Moderator then declared the Chair vacated.

Elder Charles Robinson was unanimously elected Moderator. Upon taking the Chair he returned thanks for the honor conferred upon him. The Rev. James Bowman was elected Clerk and accepted. Bro. James McDaniel was elected Treasurer.

A Committee of Finance was then appointed, consisting of Brethren George Rozier, James McCoy and Thomas McDonald.

Petitionary letters were then called for. The Church at Whiteville presented a letter. After the condition of the Church was inquired into, it was received. The Church at Mount Olive also presented a letter, and after inquiry into her condition, was received. The First African Church in Wilmington presented a letter and was received. The Pleasant View Church presented a letter, and after due inquiry, was received and their Delegates' names all enrolled.

An invitation was then extended to Visiting Brethren, whereupon Elders J. D. Elwell and James Register, from the Cape Fear Association, were recognized and invited to seats.

The Committee on Religious Exercises was appointed, consisting of the Pastor and Deacons of the New Hope Church. The Committee of Arrangements, consisting of Brethren Bowman, Boone and Coslin. The Committee on Sabbath Schools, consisting of Elders Robinson, Coslin and Boone. The Committee on Periodicals, consisting of Brethren Bowman, Boone and Coslin. The Committee on Missions, consisting of Brethren Coslin, McCoy and Robinson.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported that the Stand would be occupied on Saturday by Elder Coslin, at 10 o'clock A. M. Elder J. D. Elwell at 12 M. Elder Boone

in the afternoon. The Rev. Moses Louder to-night at Joseph Rich's.

A Committee on Ordination was appointed, consisting of Elders J. D. Elwell, James Register, John Coslin, S. H. McCoy, John M. Whitted and Charles Robinson.

The Association then adjourned till 9½ o'clock on Saturday. Prayer by Elder J. D. Elwell.

SATURDAY, Nov. 5th, 1870.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder Coslin.

The names of the Delegates were called.

The invitation to Corresponding Delegates and Visiting Brethren was renewed, whereupon Brethren J. G. Sutton, Rufus Register and Evritt Johnson, from the Cape Fear Association, came forward and accepted seats.

The Committee of Arrangements reported. The report received and made the order of the day.

The invitation to petitioning Churches renewed.

Report of Committees called for. Report on Sabbath Schools was read, adopted and ordered to be appended to the Minutes. Report on Missions read, adopted and ordered to be appended to the Minutes. Report on Periodicals read, adopted and ordered to be appended to the Minutes.

The Association took a recess of one hour and a half, and repaired to the Stand to hear a sermon by Elder J. D. Elwell. Text: 133d Psalm.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The report on Ordination was read, adopted and ordered to be appended to the Minutes.

Agreed to hold the next session with the New Light Church, Bladen County, N. C., commencing Friday before the 1st Lord's day in November 1871. The Rev. James Bowman to preach the Introductory Sermon; Elder John Coslin Alternate. Elder Charles Robinson to preach the Missionary Sermon; — — Alternate.

The Articles of Faith and the Constitution were read. The Constitution was amended, allowing the Churches three Delegates instead of ten.

The name of the Association was changed to the "Gray's Creek Colored Association."

An Executive Committee was appointed, consisting of Elders Charles Robinson, Samuel H. McCoy, Sam'l Boone, John Coslin and J. M. Whitted.

An effort was then made to raise pledges to support a Missionary. Whereupon \$196 was pledged.

The following resolutions were offered, received and ordered to be appended to the Minutes:

Resolved, That we may guard against irregularities in the Constitutions of Churches, the ordaining of Ministers and Deacons. That we will not recognize the Constitution of any Church, or the ordination of any Minister or Deacons, except it is done by two or more regular ordained Ministers.

Resolved, That we recommend the Churches of this Association to send up their young Ministers for examination and ordination to this Association.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association is returned to the citizens of this neighborhood for the hospitable manner in which they have entertained this Association.

Resolved, That 500 Minutes be printed for the use of the Churches.

Resolved, That the Treasurer pay over the money on hand to the Clerk, to pay for the printing of Minutes.

Resolved, That a collection be taken up on to-morrow, which is also to be paid to the Clerk for the printing of Minutes.

Resolved, That the Candidates for the Ministry that were examined be ordained on to-morrow.

The Association then adjourned to the time and place above specified. Benediction by the Moderator.

SUNDAY, Nov. 6th, 1870.

First sermon preached by Chas. Robinson, from Jonah, 3d chap., 8th verse. Second sermon preached by James Bowman—Text, Acts, 1st ch., 11th verse. Collection was taken up, amounting to \$7 23, and paid over to the Clerk. The third sermon was preached by the Rev. J. D. Elwell—Text, Isaiah, 7th ch., 25th v. The ordination of Jas. Bowman, Samuel Boone, Moses Louder and Nelson Wooten then took place. Ordination prayer by Elder James Register. The presentation of the Bible by Elder John Coslin. The right hand of fellowship by Elder Charles Robinson. The charge delivered by Elder J. D. Elwell. Closing exercises conducted by Elder James Register. Benediction by Elder James Bowman. Thus ended a very pleasant session.

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee would respectfully report the following:

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

Next to the Church itself the Sabbath School is the most important subject that presents itself to the mind of the true disciple. To see that the young, to whom the future welfare of the Church of Christ is to be confided, are trained up in the strict admonition of the law. All know and acknowledge the great necessity for education in the various walks of life—religious, moral and physical. It was a custom of the ancient Romans to train their children to endure all kinds of hardships, that they might thereby come to that perfection that planted the Roman standard from the frozen regions of the North to the sandy plains of Egypt. If it was thus with the ancient heathen in regard to the affairs of this life, how much more necessary for us to teach the young "to remember their Creator in the days of their youth, when their evil days come not and their years draw nigh!"

The most important consideration in organizing a Sabbath School is to select a good Superintendent, who should endeavor to present such portions of Scripture, &c. as should make it most interesting to the children. Also, to select good Teachers and to get the Ministers to lecture to the children at least once in two months.

Hoping that this subject will engage your serious attention, we remain
Yours, respectfully, &c.,

JAMES BOWMAN, Chairman.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

DEAR BRETHREN: The Gospel breathes a missionary spirit. No denomination that does not enter into the work of Missions can reasonably expect to be blessed of God. The commission given to the Apostles and Church is: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." This command is still binding on his Ministers and Church, and will be until the last son and daughter of Adam has heard the Gospel. We know that we are poor and can do but little pecuniarily, but can contribute all our little means as the Lord has prospered us, and pray his blessings to attend our efforts for good. We further recommend that immediate steps be taken to put a suitable Minister in the field, that the Gospel may be more efficiently preached to our race.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES BOWMAN, Chairman.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

DEAR BRETHREN: We regret that the colored Baptists have not a denominational paper of their own in this State. Our white brethren have a denominational paper published in Raleigh, N. C., ably defending our principles and doctrines, which we recommend to our brethren, which is the "Biblical Recorder." We also recommend the "Home and Foreign Journal," published in Richmond, Va., which gives us information of what is doing in the foreign fields.

Respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL BOONE, Chairman.

REPORT ON ORDINATION.

DEAR BRETHREN: We have carefully examined Brethren James Bowman, Samuel Boone, Nelson D. Wooten and Moses Louder, and find them sound in doctrine and recommend their ordination.

Respectfully submitted.

J. D. ELWELL, Chairman.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

COUNTIES AND CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Total.	Am't of Funds
BLADEN COUNTY.			
New Light,	J. Davis, H. Burney, J. Coslin, J. M. Whitted, T. H. White, G. Rozier, E. Davis, A. Robinson,	107	\$5 50
New Hope,	Gilbert Monroe, S. H. McCoy, Joseph Rich, Archibald Atkinson, Wm. McDowell.....	150	1 00
CUMBERLAND.			
Gray's Creek,	J. Bowman, S. Boone, A. Edwards, Jas. Tolar, T. McDowell, Wm. Butler, J. Brant, N. Gilmore, L. Smith, M. McNeill.....	150	10 00
COLUMBUS.			
Mount Olive,	N. D. Wooten, J. Evans, J. Bright.....	79	2 54
Whiteville,	James Bright, Willis Haynes, B. Gauze.....	39	1 00
NEW HANOVER.			
Wilmington,	Charles Robinson.....	147	1 50
BRUNSWICK.			
Pleasant View,	Moses Louder, Thomas Stanley.....	57	1 00
		729	\$22 54

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

NAMES.	POST OFFICE.
John Coslin.....	Prospect Hall, Bladen County, N. C.
John M. Whitted.....	" " " "
S. H. McCoy.....	Whitehall, " " "
James Bowman.....	Fayetteville, N. C.
Samuel Boone.....	Prospect Hall.
James Bright.....	Whiteville, Columbus County.
N. D. Wooten.....	" " "
Moses D. Johnson.....	Wilmington.
Charles Robinson.....	" "
John F. Hill.....	" "
Moses Louder.....	Little River, S. C.

LIST OF CHURCH CLERKS.

NAMES.	POST OFFICE.
John Jones.....	Prospect Hall, Bladen County, N. C.
James Bryant.....	" " " "
James Evans.....	Whiteville, Columbus County.
William Cowan.....	Wilmington.
H. C. Bell.....	Little River, S. C.

COPY OF CHURCH LETTER.

The Baptist Church of Christ worshipping at ———,
To the "Gray's Creek Colored Association" sendeth Christian salutation.

DEAR BRETHREN: We have delegated Brethren ———
to sit with you and aid you in your deliberations, and by them we send for
Minutes Fund \$———. For Missions \$———.

Our statistics are as follow:

Baptized.....	_____
Received by Letter.....	_____
Expelled.....	_____
Died.....	_____
Dismissed by Letter.....	_____
Full number in fellowship.....	_____

SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT.

Number of Teachers.....	_____
" " Volumes.....	_____
" " Scholars.....	_____

REMARKS.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Gen. i: 26. 2 Cor. xiii: 14.

II. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. iii: 16.

III. We believe in the doctrine of eternal, particular Election. Acts xiii: 48. Rom. viii: 28—30; xi: 5, 7. 2 Tim. ii: 10. 1 Pet. i: 2. John vi: 37, 44.

IV. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin. Ps. liv: 5.

V. We believe in the doctrine of man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, of his own free-will ability. Eph. ii: 1—10.

VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Gal. ii: 16. Rom. iii: 24; v: 9.

VII. We believe that God's Elect shall be called, converted and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Eph. i: 4—7. 2 Thess. ii: 13—14. Tim. i: 9.

VIII. We believe that the Saints shall persevere in grace, and shall never fall finally away. John x: 28, 29; xiii: 1. 1 Pet. i: 5.

IX. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances; and that the true mode of Baptism is Immersion. Matt. iii: 16. Acts viii: 38, 39. Rom. vi: 4. Eph. iv: 5. Col. ii: 12.

X. We believe in the Resurrection of the Dead and a general Judgment. 1 Cor. ch. xv. Rev. xx: 11—15.

XI. We believe that the punishment of the wicked is everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous are eternal. Matt. xxv: 46. Rev. xx: 12—15.

XII. We believe that Ordained Ministers, or such as have come under the imposition of hands by a regularly authorized Presbytery only, have a right to administer the ordinances. Acts xiii: 3. 1 Tim. iv: 14. 2 Tim. i: 6.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

GRAY'S CREEK COLORED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Whereas, God's people are commanded to strive together for the faith of the Gospel: And whereas, in union there is greater strength and capacity for assisting in the promotion of Christ's Kingdom on earth: We, professed disciples of Christ, resolve to unite in an associated capacity on the following Constitution:

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be denominated and known as the "Cape Fear Colored Baptist Association of North Carolina."

ART. 2. This body shall be composed of Delegates chosen by the Churches connected with them, each Church being entitled to three Delegates.

ART. 3. In the selection of these Delegates the Churches shall pay strict regard to the moral and intellectual qualifications of those appointed.

ART. 4. The Delegates thus selected should bear from their respective Churches a letter certifying their appointment, and communicating information relative to the state of the Church and the interest thereof.

ART. 5. The Association shall select out of their number, annually, a presiding officer, a Secretary, a Treasurer, who may be elected by rising, or by ballot, and who shall continue in office until the time for the annual election.

ART. 6. The object of the Association shall be the promotion of Christ's kingdom among men, and the way and means of accomplishing this shall be selected and prosecuted in strict conformity to law and testimony.

ART. 7. The Association shall have a fund created and sustained by voluntary contributions from the Churches, which shall be held by the Treasurer and subject to the disposition of the majority present at any annual session.

ART. 8. A faithful record shall be made of the proceedings of each annual session, which shall be printed and presented to each session.

ART. 9. It shall be the province of the Association to appoint an Executive Committee, to whom may be submitted the consummation of any plan adopted; which Committee shall be answerable for their official acts to the Association.

ART. 10. The Association shall not maintain permanent fellowship toward any of her Churches which neglect to institute and preserve proper or gospel order among their members, nor towards any of her Churches and Ministers who treat her Constitution with contempt; but shall sustain with all her influence such as promote gospel principles and order.

ART. 11. It shall be the province of the Association to invite visiting and corresponding Brethren to seats, who shall be entitled to speak on any point under discussion, but not to vote.

ART. 12. The Annual Session of this Association shall be on Friday before the first Lord's Day in November, at such places as may be chosen.

ART. 13. By appointment of the Association there shall be an introductory sermon preached, and also a charity sermon.

ART. 14. This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Session by a vote of two-thirds of those present.

 Cost of printing Minutes \$21.



